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Remarks/Arguments

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okura.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims, applicant's invention comprises the second surface that is positioned lower than the first surface and higher than the terminals and a slant surface between the first and second surfaces, making it easier to position the mating connector, to which a circuit board is connected, relative to the electrical connector prior to applying a final plugging force.

With respect to the prior art, Okura discloses a low-profile electrical connector assembly comprising a socket base 11, vertical slots 15 provided in each bank 12, ribs 16 integrally molded with the socket base 11, spring contacts 24, and a recess 13 defined by the banks 12.

However, Okura neither discloses nor suggests any second surface that is positioned higher than the terminals. Okura's second surface, which is the bottom surface of the recess 13, is much lower than the terminals 20.

For this reason, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in the amended claims is patentable over Okura.

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In paragraphs 3-4 of the Action, claims 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okura.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended the claims to define applicant's invention more clearly over the prior art of record.

As clearly defined in the amended claims, applicant's invention comprises a click projection provided in front of the second contact portion in the plugging direction so that when the second electrical connector is plugged in the electrical connector of claim 1 or 4, it provides a click sound upon passing over a contact portion of one of the terminals of claim 1 or 4.

The Action states that Okura's device includes the click projection at 26 and 27.

However, Okura's tab 26 and horn 27 are not the click projections but fixing projections that are inserted in the slit 17 and slot 15, respectively, to fix the contacts 20 and 21 to the banks 12.

In addition, Okura's tab 26 and horn 27 are not provided in front of the contact portion but after the spring contact 24.

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention as recited in the amended claims is patentable over Okura.

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The other references cited on Form 892 do not appear to be any more pertinent with respect to the amended claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-9 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

A change of correspondence address is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
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